

2008 GENERAL SESSION FISCAL NOTE WORKSHEET XI (Revised Jan. 2008)Agency: EducationBill Number HB 214TITLE OF BILL: School Testing SpecialistsRequested by: Stephen Sandstrom

Fax/Electronic Mail Transmittal To:

Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst
 W310 State Capitol Complex
 Salt Lake City, UT 84114-5310
 538-1034 / Fax 538-1692

Name:	_____
Date:	_____
Fax Number:	_____

Please return to Fiscal Analyst by: February 8, 2008This Bill Takes Effect: ☐ On passage ☒ On July 1 ☐ 60 Days after session ☐ Other _____Bill Carries Own Appropriation: ☐**FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION**

	FY 2008 Supp.	FY 2009	FY 2010
A. REVENUE IMPACT BY SOURCE OF FUNDS			
1. General Fund			
2. Uniform School Fund - Education Fund			
3. Transportation Fund			
4. Collections			
5. Other Funds (List Below)			
6 Local Funds			
7. TOTAL	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

B. EXPENDITURE IMPACT:

By Source of Funds			
1. General Fund			
2. General Fund, One Time			
3. Uniform School Fund - Education Fund		\$3,600,000	\$3,600,000
3. Transportation Fund			
4. Collections			
5. Other Funds (List Below)			
6. Local Funds			
7. TOTAL	\$ -	\$ 3,600,000.00	\$ 3,600,000.00
By Expenditure Category			
1. Salaries, Wages and Benefits			
2. Travel			
3. Current Expenses			
4. D.P. Current Expenses			
5. Capital Outlay			
6. D.P. Capital Outlay			
7. Other (Specify) <u>Flow through to LEAs for salaries</u>		\$3,600,000	\$3,600,000
8. TOTAL	\$ -	\$ 3,600,000.00	\$ 3,600,000.00

C. IMPACT IN FUTURE YEARS?

Yes, since it is intended to be an ongoing appropriation.

Randy Raphael

Prepared By

Specialist

Title

Education

Agency

538-7802

Phone #

2/8/2008

Date

D. Identify Sections of the Bill That Will Generate the Additional Workload or Cost Increase

The entire bill introduces a new program.

E. Expenditure Impact Details (*Ties to totals in Section C*)

"This bill directs the Legislature to annually appropriate money to the State Board of Education for school testing specialists to allow teachers to have more time for instruction, and requires the State Board of Education to adopt a formula for the distribution of money appropriated for school testing specialists, and make rules specifying how money for school testing specialists may be used and requiring reporting of monies spent." The bill also gives priority to elementary schools. Let's assume that all and only the 544 currently operating elementary schools are in session in FY 2009. The bill would appropriate \$6,617 per school. Fixed costs for test administration are high. A proctor is required whether you are testing three students or thirty. At the Utah minimum wage (\$6.55/hr beginning July 2008), each school could obtain 1,010 hours of labor or approximately an almost part-time testing specialist. (In FY 2010, LEAs would lose some labor because the minimum wage will rise to \$7.25/hr.) [<http://www.dol.gov/esa/minwage/america.htm#Utah>] However, the need for a testing specialist, at least with respect to state mandated assessment, will be concentrated at certain times of the year, so it may be advantageous for LEAs to use the money as pool to purchase more specialists, each for fewer hours, when needed.

F. No Fiscal Impact or Will Not Require Additional Appropriations?

This bill requires only routine administrative services of USOE staff.

G. If Bill Carries Its Own Appropriation:

How far will the appropriation go? Looking at "preparation time," "window of administration" (proctoring), and "document clean up," for the CRTs (Grades 2-6), DWA (Grade 6), Iowa (Grades 3-5), I estimate -- based on data provided by the USOE Assessment Section [see Analysis tab] -- that an elementary school must expend about 40 days (320 hours) of labor on test administration.

H. Impact on Local Governments, Businesses, Associations, and Individuals

In addition, there will be variable labor costs for individual administration of UALPA -- 30 minutes for every student (about 9% of enrollment) -- and for read aloud accommodations for individual special education students (about 11% of enrollment) which may last twice the time normally allotted for testing on all tests. So, for an elementary school of average size (about 550) and demographic composition, variable costs could conceivably boost the demand for labor much higher, though probably still within the appropriated hours, **IF** a sufficient amount of competent labor can be obtained at minimum wage.

As of July 2007, the going rate for an "inexperienced Teacher Assistant" statewide was only about \$7/hr, but the average for all Teacher Assistants was closer to \$9.75 [<http://jobs.utah.gov/jsp/wi/utalmis/gotoOccwage.do>]. I feel compelled to observe anecdotally that it is possible right now to get a job delivering pizza in Kaysville at \$13/hr. So, at the amount appropriated, it seems likely that state mandated -- or, in the parlance of the bill, "standardized" -- assessments would consume almost all of the time of available testing specialists, and that there would very little if any available for "district-created" or "teacher-created" tests or for (nonpriority) secondary schools, where, for example, UBSCT administration has a considerable impact for one week each October and February.

This is a draft fiscal note response from the Utah State Office of Education (USOE) and may be revised in the future.

This fiscal note input draft does not imply endorsement of this bill by the State Board of Education or USOE.